United Nations S/2003/301

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 March 2003
English
Original: French

Letter dated 11 March 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 31 January 2003 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to bring this report to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

03-27700 (E) 130303 130303

Annex

[Original: English]

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. Over the reporting period (1-31 January 2003) there were just over 27,200 troops of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in theatre.

Security

2. Although the overall security situation in Kosovo during the month of January was generally stable, several violent incidents were reported. The possible political motivation of some of those incidents is of particular concern.

3. In the final week of January, United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) police and members of the Kosovo Police Service (KPS) were subjected to acts of intimidation on several occasions by Kosovo Serbs in northern Mitrovica. On 4 January, a former colonel in the "Armed Forces of the Republic of Kosovo" (FARK), Tahir Zemaj, his son and another family member were shot and killed in an ambush near Pec. Zemaj had been the target of several assassination attempts in the past. Recently he had been a witness in a trial against the brother of Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK) leader Ramush Haradinaj and other former members of the FARK rival organization, the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), who were tried and sentenced in December 2002 for the ambush, abduction and murder of four Kosovo Albanians. The investigation into the killing of Zemaj continues.

4. On 2 January, a breakout at the Dubrava prison was foiled. That incident had been preceded by a breakout on 31 December when seven people escaped and were later caught by KFOR military police and turned over to UNMIK police.

5. On 22 January, an anti-tank rocket was fired at close range at the UNMIK police station in Pec. Although the building was slightly damaged, no one was injured. On 31 January, UNMIK police arrested six people on suspicion of carrying out the attack; three were subsequently detained for weapons offences and further investigation.

6. KFOR continued to carry out Kosovo-wide search operations in its campaign against weapons smuggling and terrorist activities.

7. Weapons and ammunition were seized daily. Items confiscated during the month included 117 assorted weapons; 101 grenades and mines; and 11,007 rounds of ammunition.

8. On 10 January, KFOR and Yugoslav Army authorities signed an agreement on temporary operating procedures following a further relaxation of the air safety zone from 10 to 5 kilometres.

9. On 28 January, a KFOR team of specialists concluded that the storage site at the Trepca factory in Leposavic was dangerous, when containers of cyanide were found to be emitting gases. Although there was no immediate risk to KFOR personnel and local employees, protective measures were taken and KFOR specialists repackaged the cyanide containers.

Border/boundary security

10. KFOR continued to monitor border and boundary security during the reporting period. KFOR intercepted 113 persons attempting to cross borders illegally. Most were ethnic Albanians attempting to enter Kosovo from Albania and from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.[a]

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

11. Security forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia[b] continued to remain in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Military Technical Agreement.

12. On 31 January, KFOR conducted an unannounced Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) roll-call simultaneously at all sites across the province. KPC cooperated fully during the operation. Eighty-two KPC members[c] were absent without justification, out of a total of 3,048 on the active list. Those absent will be investigated by KFOR for non-compliance.

13. Twelve cases of non-compliance were reported during the month. They related to breaches of the KPC disciplinary code and included absenteeism, insubordination, assault and illegal possession of weapons.

14. As a result of promotion ceremonies held without the authorization of KFOR and UNMIK, the Commander of KPC has been told that any rank changes and appointments made during these unauthorized ceremonies are to be considered provisional until formal approval is given by UNMIK. In addition, following a campaign of posters and calendars depicting KPC as being involved in military activities, the Commander of KPC has been officially warned by UNMIK and KFOR that any publicity issued should depict KPC as a civilian organization.

15. Fifty cases of non-compliance remained open at the end of January.

Cooperation with international organizations

16. KFOR continues to provide assistance, on request, to international organizations and non-governmental organizations working throughout Kosovo, and to provide security assistance in support of UNMIK police operations.

Outlook

17. The overall security situation in Kosovo remains stable, despite continued localized acts of vandalism, intimidation and violence.

---

[a] Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

[b] As of 4 February 2003, the name of the State of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was changed to "Serbia and Montenegro".

[c] This number included the only three Kosovo Serb members of KPC.